



City of Ridgecrest
100 W. California Avenue
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
499-5105

A.C.T.I.O.N. Task Force
Kerr McGee Community Center Meeting Rooms
March 14, 2011
3:00 pm

Minutes

Committee Members: Mayor Pro Tem Ron Carter, City Councilman Chip Holloway, Chief of Police Ron Strand

Recording Secretary: Lori Blowers, Administrative Secretary

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3pm by Mayor Pro Tem Ron Carter.

INTRODUCTIONS: Introductions were made by everyone present at the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: There was a motion from Ron Strand to approve the agenda, second by Ron Carter.
All in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: There was a motion to approve the minutes by Ron Strand, second by Ron Carter to
APPROVE THE MINUTES for January 11, 2010. All in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Ron Carter – Gang activity is non-existent at this point in time. The focus has changed for this group. Unfortunately, due to the economy, there isn't a whole lot that can be done to health youth obtain jobs. Due to the loss of funding for specific programs, we want to refocus our objective. We are losing music and arts in our schools and we can't afford to let that happen. City Manager Kurt Wilson came up with the idea of creating a youth master plan. This would include addressing the issues of bullying. We need to stop depending on the school district to solve all the problems of our youth. It has to be the community. Some programs that are currently offered are SARB, Teen Court, Conflict Resolution, and YES. We aren't offering the amount of programs to the community that we've had in the past. Therefore, a program called Ridgecrest Financial Recovery Team has been developed. The keys players would be the city, school district, college, Boys and Girls Club, etc. We want something similar for the city. We can't sustain the level of expertise that we've had in the past unless we bring in some additional funding. We are working on this with City Manager Kurt Wilson in hopes to meet with District Attorney Kevin McCarthy to help our city and sustain programs.

John Ciani, Daily Independent – AB9 waiting to go to committee. AB9 would require educators to report suspected instances of bullying to law enforcement.

Michelle Acosta – It would be difficult to hold students and parents accountable without the support of District Attorney Kevin McCarthy. Accountability at the lower levels (Teen Court) helps stop future crime. If students aren't in school they are typically on the streets causing trouble.

Craig Bradley – Cyber bullying. We need a big outreach to address these issues. Parents are unaware of children hurting others in a devastating way. We need to move forward on developing a plan.

Councilman Chip Holloway – Noticing that adult bullying is happening more towards the police department. Encourage people to stop this behavior as it will eventually trickle down to the youth.

Saxon Johnson – Without conflict resolution at Mesquite High School, things would have crumbled apart a long time ago. It's been absolutely critical resulting in a major growth in the kids. Dan Clark volunteered to come back to conduct this for the school.

Jacquelyn Davis – She's in the process of creating a national level bullying prevention program that can be applied nationwide.

Eddie Edwards – A lot of us are busy doing a lot of nothing. We have a lot of people in the community who can volunteer at the schools to fill in the gaps.

Odessa Newman-Staples – Cyber bullying comes down to the parents. Believes that parents are not educated about drugs or what their kids are doing on the internet. Teen Court is a fabulous program when the child qualifies for it. If not, the child falls through the cracks because they go back to probation and nothing is done for about 9 months.

UPDATES ON STRATEGY/ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. **School Reports** –

Officer Franco – Witnesses the effects on student's behaviors due to lack of programs and funding. She would like to see more community and parent's participation.

2. **Neighborhood Watch** – Not present.

3. **Y.E.S.** – Not present.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – None.

ADJOURNMENT – The official meeting was adjourned by Mayor Pro Tem Ron Carter.